

## List of Figures

1. Yolo Bypass Map
2. Board of Directors
3. References
4. Nondiscrimination Compliance Statement
5. Yolo Flyway
6. Yolo Basin Foundation Background Flyer
7. Newspaper Articles

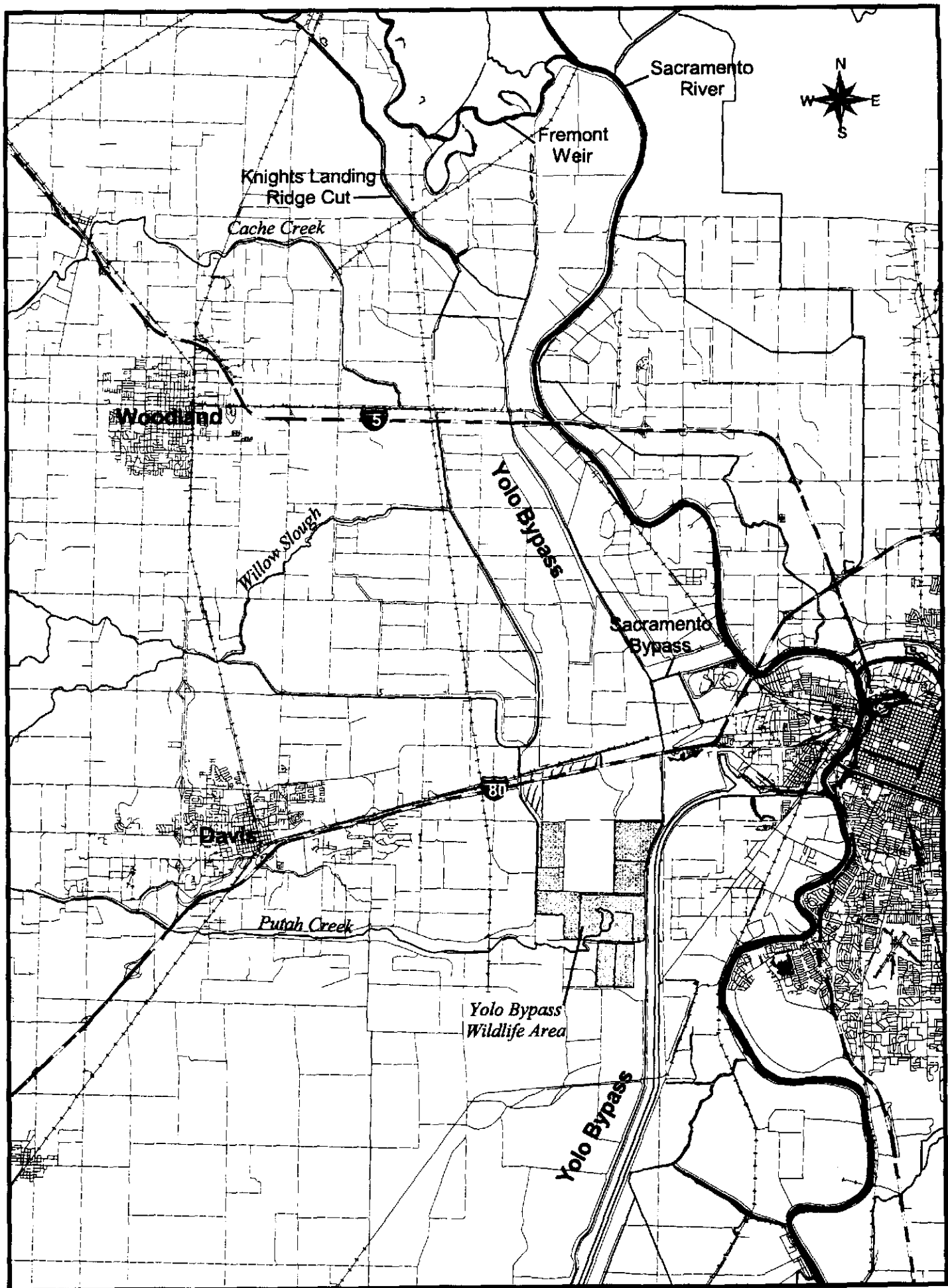


Figure 1

Figure 2

**Yolo Basin Foundation  
Board of Directors, June 1998**

The following is a listing of the board of directors with a brief description of their professional affiliations:

<b>John Anderson</b>	University of California, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (retired) Yolo Co. Resource Conservation District, associate director Founding member Calif. Native Grass Association Owner, Hedgerow Farms, Farmer actively involved in native habitat restoration and commercial production of native grass seed for restoration.
<b>Manny Carbahal</b>	<i>Chief Financial Officer, YBF Executive Committee</i> Certified Public Accountant, Carbahal & Co. Yolo County Chamber of Commerce Yolo County Fair Board of Directors Budget Committee, Davis Joint Unified School District
<b>Robin Kulakow</b>	<i>Secretary,</i> <i>Executive Director</i> Masters of Administration, UC Davis Putah Creek Council, treasurer Cache Creek Conservancy board of directors
<b>Mike Lien</b>	Walker, Donant and Company (builders & developers) L&D Landfill, L&D Recycling Yolo County Solid Waste Advisory Committee
<b>Betsy Marchand</b>	Yolo County Board of Supervisors (retired) Special Projects Coordinator, Yolo-Solano Flood Control & Water Conservation District Governmental Affairs, Families First
<b>Frank MacBride</b>	<i>YBF Executive Committee</i> President, MacBride Realty Co., Sacramento Landowner, Yolo Bypass duck club Sacramento Rotary Club
<b>Ken Noack Jr.</b>	KVIE Public Television, Board of Directors Rotary club of Sacramento, Board of Directors Sacramento Society for the Blind, Board of Directors Land Broker, Bishop Hawk, Sacramento

- David Rosenberg**    Yolo County Supervisor, District 4  
Attorney-at-Law  
Former Mayor of Davis  
Commission, California Council on Criminal Justice
- Susan Sanders**    Ph.D., Zoology, UC Davis  
Consulting wildlife biologist (freelance)  
Former president, Yolo Audubon Society  
Former co chair, Putah Creek Council
- Bob Schneider**    West Davis Associates (land development)  
Ridge Builders Group, owner  
Sierra Club California, executive committee  
Davis Chamber of Commerce  
UC Davis Chancellors Club  
Rotary Club of Davis
- Paul Simmons**    *President, YBF Executive Committee*  
Attorney at law, De Cuir and Somach, Sacramento  
Sacramento Rotary Club
- Meg Stallard**    *Vice-president, YBF Executive Committee*  
Vice President, Woodland School Board  
League of Women Voters  
UC Davis Alumni Association, Board of Directors  
UC Davis Chancellors Club
- Chris Unkel**    California Nature Conservancy, Director, California  
Wetlands Program  
Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, Board of Directors
- Lois Wolk**    Mayor , City of Davis(retired)  
Yolo County Board of Supervisors (elected)  
Council liaison for water and wetlands  
Member, Yolo County Water Resources Association  
Davis Chamber of Commerce

Figure 3

Yolo Basin Foundation  
References  
June 1998

Elected Officials:

Congressman Vic Fazio  
722-B Main  
Woodland CA 95695  
(530)666-5521

Helen Thomson  
Assemblywoman, Eighth District  
State Capitol  
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(916)445-8368

Betsy Marchand  
Yolo County Board of Supervisors,  
retired  
926 Craig Place  
Davis CA 95616  
(530)756-0521

Lois Wolk  
Mayor  
City of Davis  
1209 Colby  
Davis CA 95616  
(530)756-9655

Meg Stallard  
Vice Chair  
Woodland School Board  
10 Toyon Drive  
Woodland CA 95695  
(530)666-0154

Governmental Agencies:

Doug Wheeler  
Secretary  
Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street  
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Coordinator  
Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture  
2233 Watt Ave, Suite 375  
Sacramento CA 95825-0509  
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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
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Deputy Director  
Department of Fish & Game  
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Walter Yep  
Chief  
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(916)557-6699

Bank Curtis  
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Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
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Non-profit Conservation Organizations:

Bill Gaines  
California Waterfowl Association  
4630 Northgate Boulevard, Suite 150  
Sacramento CA 95834  
648-1406

Ron Stromstad  
Director of Operations  
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.  
3074 Gold Canal Drive  
Rancho Cordova CA 95670-6116  
852-2000

Ann Brice  
Executive Director  
Cache Creek Conservancy  
34490 County Road 25  
Woodland CA 95695  
(530)661-1070

University of California:

Sid England  
Environmental Planner  
Mrak Hall  
UC Davis  
Davis CA 95616  
(530)752-2432

Peter Moyle  
Professor  
University of California  
Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology  
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(530)752-6355

Education:

Barbara Wells  
Principal  
Pioneer School  
5215 Hamel Drive  
Davis CA 95616  
(530)757-5480

Private Sector:

Fred Teichert  
Executive Director  
Teichert Foundation  
P.O. Box 15002  
Sacramento CA 95851-1002  
484-3011, 484-3364

## DISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

COMPANY NAME

The company named above (hereinafter referred to as "prospective contractor") hereby certifies, unless specifically exempted, compliance with Government Code Section 12990 (a-f) and California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 4, Chapter 5 in matters relating to reporting requirements and the development, implementation and maintenance of a Nondiscrimination Program. Prospective contractor agrees not to unlawfully discriminate, harass or allow harassment against any employee or applicant for employment because of sex, race, color, ancestry, religious creed, national origin, disability (including HIV and AIDS), medical condition (cancer), age, marital status, denial of family and medical care leave and denial of pregnancy disability leave.

## CERTIFICATION

*I, the official named below, hereby swear that I am duly authorized to legally bind the prospective contractor to the above described certification. I am fully aware that this certification, executed on the date and in the county below, is made under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California.*

OFFICIAL'S NAME

Robin J. Kulakow

DATE EXECUTED

6-17-98

EXECUTED IN THE COUNTY OF

Yolo

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S SIGNATURE

Robin J. Kulakow

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S TITLE

Executive Director

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S LEGAL BUSINESS NAME

Yolo Basin Foundation, Inc.

Figure 5

Yolo Flyway Newsletter



# YOLO FLYWAY

Volume 6, Issue 3, Winter 1997

A PUBLICATION OF THE YOLO BASIN FOUNDATION

★ SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL EDITION ★

## President Clinton Visits the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and Likes What He Sees

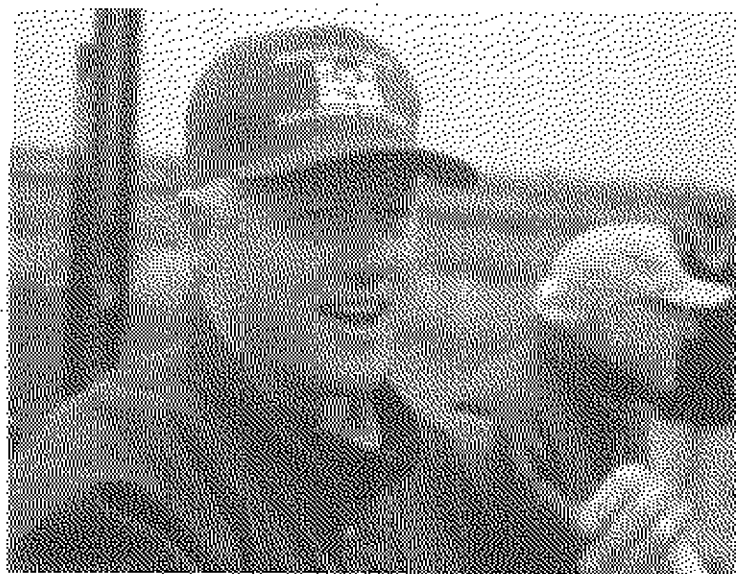
By Susan Sanders

**M**odest plans for a dedication ceremony to mark the official opening of the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area suddenly blossomed into a mad and joyous scramble when President Clinton announced he would be in attendance at the ceremony. With barely one week's notice, Ducks Unlimited, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the Yolo Basin Foundation had to radically shift gears to accommodate the extraordinary demands of a presidential visit. After literally thousands of phone calls, many conferences with White House staff and Secret Service, and Herculean efforts by the Corps to make the muddy roads drivable and safe, all was ready for the November 15th ceremony.

The day dawned inauspiciously stormy, but hundreds of undaunted Wildlife Area supporters began arriving hours before the dedication ceremony and worked their



President Clinton tours the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area with Ducks Unlimited Secretary of the Interior John Garamendi, Congressman Vir Filbin, Yolo Basin Foundation Executive Director Robin Kulakow, and Landowner Glen Schmidt. Photo courtesy of Mark Bullard, Ducks Unlimited.



President Clinton greeting Yolo Basin supporters.  
Photo courtesy of Tom and Sally Myers.

way through the tight security. Transported by comfortable chartered buses to a most uncomfortable and unsheltered spot in the Wildlife Area, everyone began a long but good-natured wait for the festivities to begin. The only entertainment were flocks of tundra swans and white-fronted geese, who cooperatively displayed themselves overhead to the wet crowd.

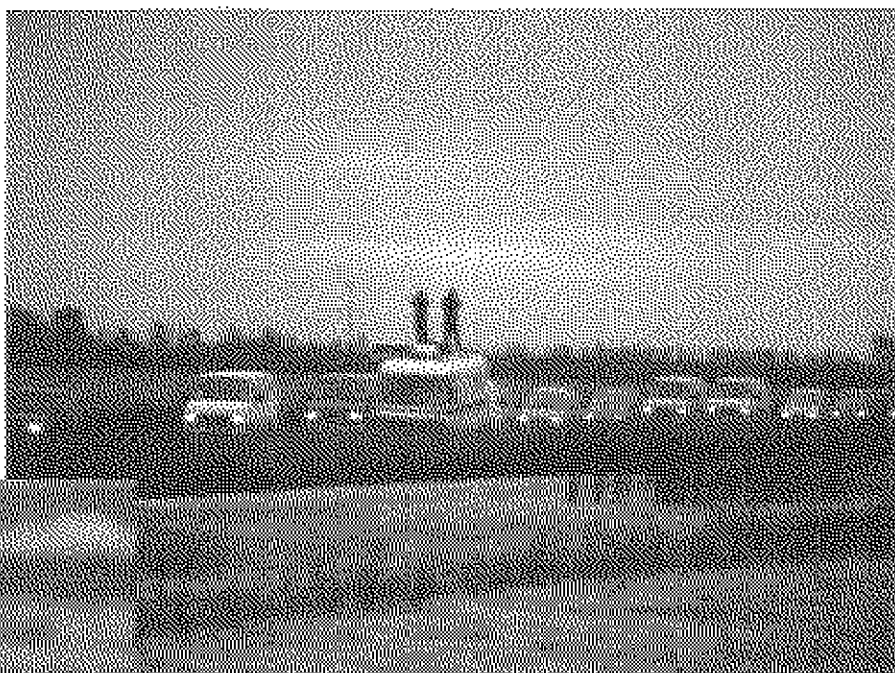
Finally, the astonishing motorcade arrived, a caravan of 27 vehicles on the muddy levee roads. Accompanying the President were Congressman Filbin and Deputy Secretary of the Interior John Garamendi. Some of our own local luminaries led the entourage once it arrived at the Wildlife Area - Yolo Basin Foundation executive director Robin Kulakow and local farmer John Schmidt were there in the lead vehicle along with Wildlife Area Manager, Craig Sowers and Chief Deputy Fred Cole.

Robin and Greg had the opportunity to take the

continued on p. 2

## CLINTON *continued from p. 1*

President on a walking tour of the Wildlife Area. The President started off the walk by saying to Robin, "Tell me what you have here." He asked questions about specific bird species, compared the area to the Mississippi Delta and discussed farming programs with Greg. Plenty of ducks welcomed the President as he viewed the area. The press corps was kept at a distance, crowded onto a small turn out in the road. Toward the end of the walk



*President Clinton walking at the Exposition. Photo courtesy of Tom and Sally Myers.*



*Congressman Vic Fazio welcoming the President with the wetlands as a backdrop. Photo courtesy of Tom and Sally Myers.*

Congressman Vic Fazio and Deputy Secretary John Garamendi joined the three.

A greeting party including California Resources Secretary Doug Wheeler, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Richard Rominger, Ducks Unlimited Chairman of the Board John E. Walker, and Yolo Basin Foundation Chairman Paul Simmons welcomed the President. The speeches began with a welcome by John E. Walker. A beaming Congressman Fazio said it all when he said "I've visited this area many times but I've never had as much

fun as the time I brought the President to the Yolo Bypass." Next Sarah Julian, representing the Yolo Basin Foundation, introduced the President with an outstanding speech describing her volunteer work with the Foundation and what the project meant to her.

Clinton's speech was funny, uplifting, and very appropriate. He really understood what the Wildlife Area was all about, acknowledging the exceptional collaboration and effort that made the Wildlife Area happen, and said, "this project is the embodiment of not only what we should be doing as Americans on



*Yolo Basin supporters patiently wait for the President's arrival. Photo courtesy of Tom and Sally Myers.*

"the edge of a new century, but how we should be doing it." After he spoke, Clinton lingered for almost an hour, mingling with the crowd and warmly shaking everyone's hand.

A crowd of over 800 had waited two to three hours in the painfully cold rain and wind, but there were few complaints. It was not so much the thrill of being able to see and touch The President, but rather what his presence represented. Everyone in the crowd (and many of you reading this newsletter) had made some contribution to shaping the



*President Clinton shakes hands with Gary Diller from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Photos courtesy of Mark Bullard, Davis Statewide*

dream of the Wildlife Area into reality. And here was one of the most powerful people on the planet telling us he thought we had all done a great job, and that everyone else in the country could learn from us. It doesn't get much better than that. For all of you Wildlife Area supporters out there, give yourself a presidential pat on the back. Your hard work has been recognized at the highest level.



*Second graders from Dorothy Peterson's class at Pioneer School hold a banner and sign. These students are representing the Vista Basin Foundation's Discover the History of our program. Photos courtesy of Tom and Sally Myers.*

## SPRING PLANTING ALERT: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Yolo Basin Foundation has just embarked on a new project to plant 10,000 native California trees and shrubs in the Community Site of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The Causeway Site habitat restoration has been in the works since the inception of the Yolo Basin Wetlands project in 1990. This high profile location is an opportunity for millions of travelers (by car, train, bicycle and foot) to observe native Central Valley wetland habitats while highlighting the successful partnerships that have made large scale habitat restoration possible throughout the region.

The Causeway Site consists of about 400 acres of land north of the I-505 at the Yolo Causeway and south of the Southern Pacific railroad tracks, all owned by California Department of Fish and Game. About 200 acres on the west side of the property are in a 20 year barberry permanent with Caltrans. Fish and Game is currently managing the 200 acres on the west side as grassland, riparian wetlands, a 10 acre year round pond and small areas of riparian forest. The riparian planting project will establish an additional 25 acres of riparian habitat adjacent to the wetland forest. The planting area is about one mile in length.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will deliver the 10,000 plants in the Yolo Fish and Game Headquarters on March 20. Currently, the Corps and Fish and Game asked the Yolo Basin Foundation to work with the project by coordinating volunteers to do the planting. Community organizations and individuals interested in volunteering to plant should contact the Foundation at (530) 758-7240 or by e-mail (YBF@yolo.basin.org).

## YOLO FLYWAY

DECEMBER 31, 1997

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 3

The Yolo Flyway is a periodic publication of the Yolo Basin Foundation.  
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(530) 758-7240

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Text and Sally Myers, Sally Myers Photography  
Art Director: Arlene Adams

## Corps to Fish and Game: "Here, it's yours!"

The original purpose of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area dedication event was to mark the transfer of the Yolo Basin Project from the federal sponsor, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), to the local sponsor, California Department of Fish and Game. This important milestone was celebrated in a brief ceremony at the site of the President's visit just prior to his arrival. The ceremony began with a welcome by

Yolo Basin Foundation Chairman, Paul Simmons under the protection of very weather beaten umbrella. Colonel Dorothy Klase enthusiastically described the importance of the project and the Corps' new role as restorers of wildlife habitat. She then introduced Dr. John Zirschky, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, who came all the way from Washington D.C. for the event. In his brief, wind swept words, Dr. Zirschky presented a lovely bronze plaque listing the names of the many Yolo Basin partners. Jack Edwards, Fish and Game Conservation Education, accepted the plaque from Dr. Zirschky. Jack then put on a red Corps baseball hat in the true spirit of partnership. California Waterfowl Association's Bill Gaines, Chairman of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture gave the concluding remarks. Bill eloquently spoke of the



Paul Simmons welcoming Wildlife Area supporters, photo courtesy of Tom and Sally Myers

importance of celebrating our accomplishments but that more importantly, we should take this time to recommit ourselves to continue our work on behalf of wetlands and wildlife.

The bronze plaque presented to Fish and Game is now hanging on the front wall of the Fish and Game Headquarters on Chiles Road. The plaque, designed by Miki Fujisube and Robin Kulakow, reads, "Yolo Basin Wetlands: A cooperative project of many agencies, organizations, and individuals." Twenty names of agencies and organizations are listed. Congressman Vic Fazio, former State Assemblyman Tom Hannigan, and retired Yolo County Supervisor Betsy Marchand are listed as well. This plaque will be an important reminder to all of us of the commitments that made the restoration of the Yolo Basin Wetlands a reality.

## Waterfowl Visit the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and Like What They See.



**T**he Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area officially opened to the public on November 1, 1997.

Hunters showed up before dawn to get an orientation to the new area and a steady stream of bird watchers came throughout the day. The students in Alida Morzenti's Avian Sciences class were treated to the sight of a golden eagle that morning. California Department of Fish and Game staff estimate that on weekends 20-40 cars per day visit for wildlife viewing.

Bird use of the newly flooded ponds is very encouraging and promises to get better and better as the habitat develops. The early

*continued next page*







## WATERFOWL *continued*

arriving waterfowl included about 500 mallards and pintail in early September when the ponds were first flooded. The number and diversity of species steadily rose to 5,000 ducks on November 1. By November 15th, 15,000 ducks were on hand to greet the President. According to Chris Röcco, the Wildlife Area biologist, "it was surprising how early the ducks came through." It is a challenge for the staff to manage such a large water system the first year. According to Bob Mapes the Region 2 manager who oversees the area, "It's going well. It's a learning process."

The waterfowl counts for mid-December are around 20,000 ducks evenly dispersed throughout the Wildlife Area. The dabbling ducks present include mallard, Northern pintail, Northern shoveler, green-winged teal, American widgeon, gadwall and wood duck. By mid-December the diving ducks present were canvasback, redhead, ring-necked, sculp, bufflehead, and ruddy

duck. One December day 800 canvasbacks were counted. So far very few geese have arrived although they are flying overhead in large numbers. The same is true for the Tundra swans. The number of red-tailed hawks, Northern harriers, and kestrels hunting the new wetlands is

impressive. On October 19th, Kevin Guse led a field trip to the Wildlife Area. In three hours the group saw 52 different species of birds including a peregrine falcon.

According to Craig Stowers, Wildlife Area manager, the hunting is surprisingly good given the condition of the habitat and the newness of the place. He also is surprised at how well the birds have responded to the new wetlands. As of mid-December 380 hunters had gone through the area including 25 junior hunters. The bird take was 461 with an average of 1.3 ducks per hunter which is on par with many of the other State Wildlife areas.

For those of us fortunate enough to visit the Wildlife Area regularly, the changes in the habitat are fascinating. It is especially exciting to see the large numbers of ducks show up to a new pond for the first time. For those of us involved in the planting of the area it is reassuring to see the new habitat "working." The whistle of thousands of ducks is constantly present and perhaps that is what is most noticeable. It sounds like a marsh!

## Pacific Flyway Center

*by Bob Schneider, Pacific Flyway Center Coordinator*

The Yolo Basin Foundation recently received a \$5,000 "seed money" grant from Novo Nordisk Biotech, Inc. to support planning of a Pacific Flyway Center. Glenn Nedwin, President of Novo Nordisk Biotech wrote "Your vision for the Pacific Flyway Center to inspire and educate, to instill an imperative to take care of our land, to make wetlands and wildlife meaningful to people's everyday lives—is exciting."

The Pacific Flyway Center Working Group, formed under the auspices of the Yolo Basin Foundation, proposes to build and operate an internationally recognized Center near the Yolo Basin wetlands and Interstate-60. Many members of the group were original members of the Yolo Basin Working Group whose efforts led to the success of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. They have developed a Case Statement, and are working on programming and a feasibility study.

The Foundation has hired Bob Schneider half time to coordinate the Pacific Flyway Center effort. Those interested in the Center can reach Bob at 530-758-4315.



Photo: Sarah Julian officially welcomes President Clinton to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Photo courtesy of Tom and Sally Myers

## "WELCOME MR. PRESIDENT"

As President Clinton visits communities around the country a local young person is often asked to introduce him. The Wings House staff asked for a student who was connected to the Foundation through volunteer work. Sarah Julian, daughter of Bill Julian and step-daughter of Robin Kukulski, was chosen for this honor. Sarah Julian's words of welcome to President Clinton captured the spirit of the day.

"Thank you, Congressman Fazio, Mr Walker and President Clinton, for honoring us by coming to celebrate the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area."

I have grown up with this project. It has been a constant learning experience for me—to see it grow from an idea discussed at dinner to a dusty construction site, to become this marvelous place for birds and people.

Here we can all learn about the

natural world as it once was, through the experience of walking here, and watching, and listening. School children planting sedges and trees, learning to identify the birds and the grasses will come to respect and appreciate the environment, just as I have.

This wildlife area and its inhabitants will be here forever—for me, for my little brother and sister, my nephew, for my children, and for all the future generations of this community and of this nation. To learn and grow.

I have experienced the effort it has taken. I have licked stamps, fielded phone calls, planted trees, organized slides, sold raffle tickets,

baby-sat at meetings. Xeroxed, collated and folded for almost half my life. And I am amazed that all of us—volunteers, farmers, government agencies, organizations, hunters, environmentalists and students—have come together to create something as wonderful as this public wildlife area.

Mr. President, it gives me hope that great visions can become reality if people work together for a good end. And that is a lesson I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

Mr. President, on behalf of the Yolo Basin Foundation and our entire community, I welcome you to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area."



"You can't imagine how much I wanted to get out of cold, wet, rainy, windy Washington, D.C. to come to California." Photo courtesy of Tom and Kelly Myers.

## Excerpts from President Clinton's Remarks

"Thank you very much. You can't imagine how much I wanted to get out of cold, wet, rainy, windy Washington, D.C. to come to California. But, after all, this is a wetlands event.

I want to, first of all, thank Sarah for her introduction...listening to her account of the experiences the last several years of her life I think was as good a statement as any as could be made about so many of you who are here and the work you have done to make this day come to pass. I want to thank all of you very much.

I'm very glad to be here with all of you. I want to thank Robin and Greg for showing me around the area and giving me a chance to look at some of the birds and just see what you've done here. I asked them how many ducks and geese there were going to

be here and whether you had any eagles or ospreys or egrets, and I got a pretty good rundown on it.

And I have to say that I have been, as you have heard already, a big supporter of these kinds of endeavors. I thank the people from the California Water Fowl Association, and I do want to say a special word of thanks to two groups with which I have been associated — first, the folks from the Corps of Engineers. They have not only changed their image, they've changed their reality. They're working hard not only to give us water projects, but to give us the kind of environmental conservation that we need for the long run. And I thank you very much, Colonel, and I thank all the people from the Corps for what you've done.

And let me just echo what was said earlier. I'm very proud of my very long association with Ducks Unlimited. They've done a wonderful job in helping us to bring water fowl back to our state and they do a great job in this country.

Finally, I'd like to say a word of appreciation to Vic Pazio, who is clearly one of the most outstanding members of the United States Congress in either party. If we had a hundred more people like him, America would have no problems. ...I want to thank Vic not only for his work here, but for the general efforts he's made, along with Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein and John Garamendi, for our efforts in the Bay Delta area, and the work that we are doing to try to guarantee the long-term needs of California for water



supply, as well as water quality, habitat preservation and environmental progress. And that's very, very good.

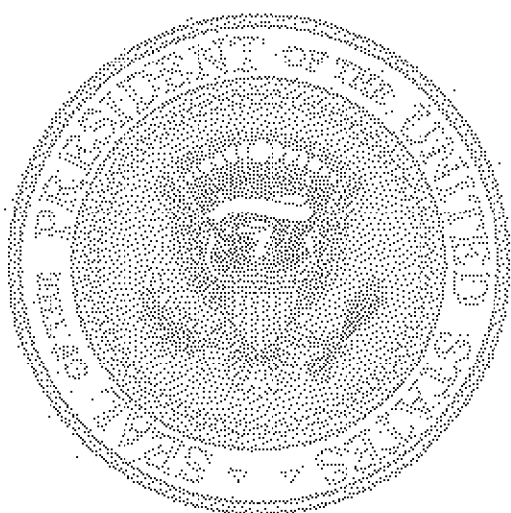
Let me say, I wanted to be here today because to me this project is the embodiment of not only what we should be doing as Americans on the edge of a new century, but how we should be doing it. We worked very hard to create a country where things were working for ordinary Americans, where we were coming together across the lines that divide us and where we can be strong enough to continue to lead the world in the right direction. And that bridge that I talked about all the time I'm trying to build to the 21st century is going pretty well. We've got the strongest economy in a generation, crime and welfare are dropping. And our water quality, our air quality, our food safety, they're all improving. We are moving in the right direction.

One of the biggest challenges we will have to continue to face during the entire lifetime of all the children that are here is the challenge of trying to grow our economy and lift our standard of living while improving, not diminishing our environment. That is critical. A great deal of the history of 20th century California is a story of this battle. And the truth is, for most of the 20th century, not only in California but throughout America, whenever people thought about this they either thought, I'm going to develop the economy, the environment will take care of itself, or they felt for a long time, it's unfortunate that we have to give up so much of our environment, but it's a necessary price we have to pay to continue to raise our living standards.

Now we know that is a false choice. And, indeed, we understand that over the long run if we want to preserve our ability to increase our standard of living we have to preserve our national environment and all the things that go with it.

Just for example, Greg Schmidt and I were talking about this project and how the more you do these projects, the more you're going not only to have what you came here for today, but what you cannot see — you will lose less water in rain runoff, and you will over time rebuild the aquifers that are below the land, that no one sees and most people don't think about. But that will enable you to sustain your population and to sustain your economic activity.

So again I say, I wanted to come here today because this is a huge



success. You're doing the right thing and you're doing it in the right way. And that's the second point I want to make. If we haven't learned anything in our country in the last few years, I hope we have learned we do not get very far when we just stand off and shout at each other and fight and argue all the time. But we can do anything if roll up our sleeves and get down to work and honestly listen to people who have different experiences, different perspectives, and different genuine interests. That's what you've done here. You've been able to bring everybody together, and I really feel good about that.

Here we are in the shadow of Sacramento. We see the farmlands here, and I promise you, when I crossed that terece today, I thought I was back home in eastern Arkansas,

and I kept waiting for somebody to give me my waders and a gun to go duck hunting.

What you have done today was based on the cooperation of state, federal, and local governments. That's how we ought to be dealing with all America's problems. You can't name a single problem we've got in this country that we could not make the kind of progress on we're celebrating today, if we didn't approach it the way you have approached this.

And I would implore you to think about what you can do and what you can say to people in this state, and your friends and family members and neighbors all around America, to take this attitude and this approach, not only to our environmental problems, but to all others.

You've been working on this since the late '80s. You ought to be very proud of it. But you ought to also draw confidence from this that there is no challenge facing this country that we cannot meet if we will just do what you have done here.

I am so proud of you — I know that you believe in it or you wouldn't be standing out here in the cold and rain listening to me talk.

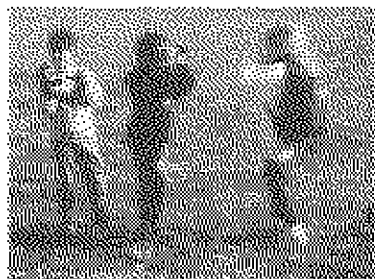
We're working hard across America on projects like this. We're making progress in reclaiming Florida Everglades, in restoring Lake Tahoe, in saving Yellowstone. We have funds in this latest bill, in our balanced budget plan, to continue this work. But I now can go around the country and talk to other people about what you've done here and tell them you believe in it so much you all showed up and stayed in the wind and the rain in sunny California.

Well, I've seen the wetlands here today, and some of you may have seen more than you wanted to see. But I'll tell you what else I've seen — I've seen a glimpse of America's future, and I like it. Thank you, and God bless you."

# Discover the Flyway Update

by Liz Merry, Program Coordinator

Since mid-October the Yolo Basin Foundation and California Department of Fish and Game have been proud to host over 600 elementary school students through the *Discover the Flyway* program for schools. One of the first things you noticed is that the students who visit the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area on a classroom field trip don't always follow along with the learning activities the teacher has planned. Some of the younger



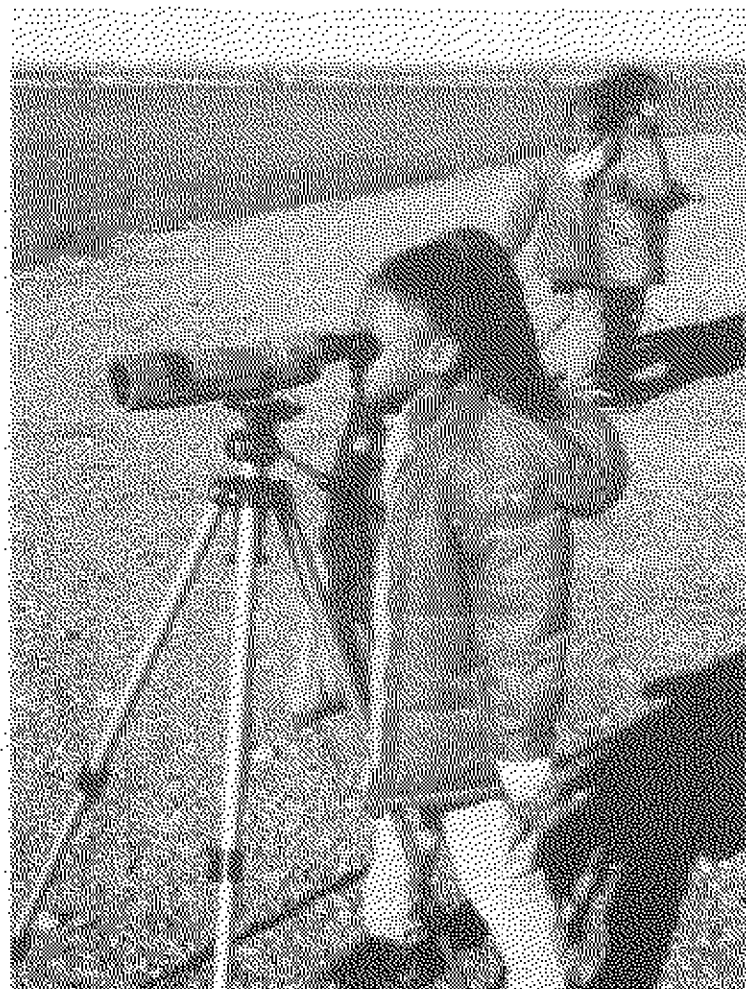
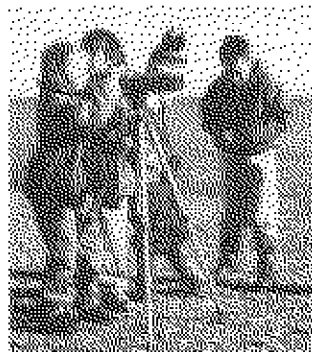
students, in second or third grade, don't necessarily have to look through the binoculars from the right direction to enjoy observing the birds. In fact, the children don't seem to need much direction at

all about how to enjoy and appreciate the wetlands. Who even needs birds? The bugs are great and you can pick them up too.

Each new field trip provides a lesson that improves the program. Little details, like not having the children wear binoculars as they plant sedges in the mud, or letting the students use the spotting scope unattended, only to find that some enjoy looking directly at the sun. These are the experiential lessons we incorporate into each new field trip.

Other projects in the *Discover the Flyway* program include a group of volunteers called *Wildlife Observers* who are regularly touring the auto tour route in the wetlands to observe the waterfowl, plant life, and human activity taking place. These dedicated volunteers have committed their energies to recording their observations, and describing the general state of things in the Wildlife Area. This information is then passed on to teachers to assist them in planning their trip. The volunteers include: Norm Dorris, Karen Gethart, Rick Heredia, Kristen Kolb, Dick Stanton, Penny Gordon, Gary Weaver, Laurie Wedra. The Observers are providing an important service to the teacher's in the *Discover the Flyway* program and to the Foundation. We thank them for their hard work.

Finally, we have organized several supplementary training sessions for the volunteers, teachers and parents involved in field trips to the Wildlife Area. These evening training



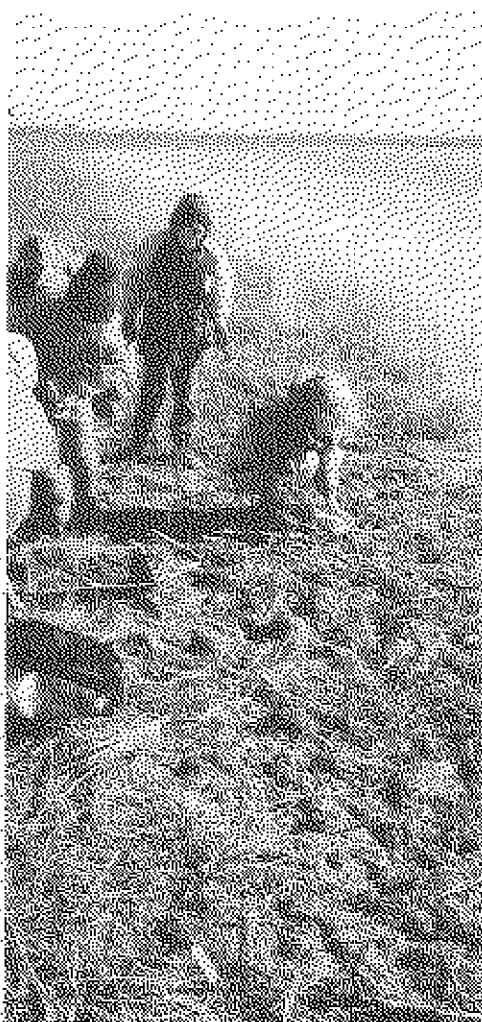
Students from Lincoln Elementary School in Sacramento planting sedges and exploring the wetlands.

sessions include a one-hour orientation to the Wildlife Area and a second hour of specialty training. During the second hour on November 19th, Woody Schoen from the Sacramento Mosquito Vector Control Agency came to discuss waterfowl identification. Along with a fabulous slide show of the waterfowl Woody enjoys near the Mosquito Fish Hatchery in Elk Grove, we were treated to waterfowl calls and stories about the long-time feathery residents who inhabit the 40 acre pond site. Woody is also an active volunteer at the Stone Lakes Refuge and will be leading a field trip for California Duck Days in February. Don't miss his trip. He's a great interpreter!

On December 19th, the final training session of 1997 took place when Michelle Stevens from UC Davis presented "Edinobotany: Wetland Plants and Ecology". Ms. Stevens' presentation was very informative and the audience truly appreciated her skill at explaining and clarifying the names of various sedges, tules, and cattails. In addition, Ms. Stevens is actively involved in Native



American basketry and cultural awareness, and is therefore able to explain the various perceptions of plants from an academic, regulatory agency, and Native American perspective. Ms. Stevens' ability to translate information between different cultures is a rare talent. Foundation members are encouraged to attend her workshop at California Duck Days. Teachers interested in attending future *Discover the Thyway* workshops should call me at (530)758-1018 or e-mail me at flywayb@den.davis.ca.us.



## YOLO BASIN FOUNDATION FIELD TRIPS

**February 21, Tour of Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area;** Leader: Mary Schmidt; 9 a.m. - noon; Meet at the west levee gate at the end of Chiles Road east of Davis.

**March 14, Tour of Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area;** Leader: John Kumpson; 9 a.m. - noon; Meet at the west levee gate at the end of Chiles Road east of Davis.

**March 21, Nature and Culture Tour of the Putah Creek Headwaters;** Leaders: Bob Thayer and David Robertson; All day trip; 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Meet at Veterans Memorial Center Parking Lot, 205 East 14th, Davis; You may also meet at the Wildlife Community Center parking lot at 8:45 a.m. to join the caravan.

**April 4, Tour of Lower Cache Creek;** Leaders: Ann Price & Steve Chaffey; 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Meet at the Riley's Superstore parking lot in the West Gate Center, 367 W. Main St. in Woodland.

**April 19, Tour of Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area;** 9 a.m. - noon

**April 25, City of Davis Wetlands Site;** Leader: Mike Cichok; 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.; Meet at City of Davis Water Pollution Control Plant, Road 284 & 107

**May 2, Upper Cache Creek and Rayhouse Road;** Leader: John Kumpson; 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Meet at the Riley's Superstore parking lot in the West Gate Center, 367 W. Main St. in Woodland.

**May 17, Tour of Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area;** Leader: Sid England; 9 a.m. - noon

**June 6, Saturday Conaway Ranch Bird Banding;** Leader: Mike Hall; 9 a.m. - noon; Meet at Conaway Ranch Headquarters parking lot at the very west end of Conroy Road 25.

**August 1 Conaway Ranch Bird Banding;** Leader: Mike Hall; 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

*A complete schedule with more details on the trip and conditions can be mailed to you. Call (530)758-1018 and leave your name and address. You may also reach us by e-mail at flywayb@den.davis.ca.us.*

## YOLO BASIN FOUNDATION PROJECT SPONSORS

### CALIFORNIA DUCK DAYS 1998

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## Work Begins on Demonstration Wetland

Thanks to rice farmer Allen Garcia construction is underway for a two-acre demonstration wetland located adjacent to the new Yolo Bypass State Wildlife Area Headquarters on Chiles Road east of Davis. In early November Mr. Garcia began the earthwork, or earth sculpting as he calls it, to create the new two acre pond. This exciting new Yolo Basin Foundation project in partnership with the State Department of Fish and Game is funded through

Flyway program for schools. It is another example of a successful Yolo Basin partnership providing habitat and educational resources for the community. Look for upcoming announcements recruiting volunteers for planting days next spring.

Allen Garcia with Living Farms Center for Sustainable Agriculture, farms organic rice at Cosumnes Preserve south of Sacramento. Mr. Garcia is well known for his skill in recreating wetland habitats on



Allen Garcia discussing pond design and construction with Mike Fujisubo in the background.

grants from California Waterfowl Association, Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The demonstration wetland will be modeled after the larger ponds in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and will serve as an easily accessible outdoor classroom for students of all ages. There will be observation areas and a trail accessing the pond for closer study. All vegetation will be native plants typical of Central Valley wetlands and riparian areas, providing an excellent opportunity for students to become familiar with native plants at a convenient study site. This project will be an integral part of the Yolo Basin Foundation's Discover the

existing farmland and demonstrating wildlife friendly farming practices. The Foundation is fortunate to have the services of Mr. Garcia.

Mike Fujisubo, landscape architect with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, prepared the site plans and is working on the irrigation design. Andy Halo and Bob Smith with Larry Walker Associates, consulting engineers, provided the pre-design site survey. Grading and installation of water control structures will be completed by Allen Garcia and California Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Area personnel this winter as ground conditions permit. Native grass plugs for a perennial grassland surrounding the pond will be provided by Hedgerow Farms.

# Thank you to the 1997 Bucks for Ducks Sponsors:

## YOLO FLYWAY CLUB:

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Woodland Biomass

## BUCKS FOR DUCKS: SEVEN YEARS OLD AND GOING STRONG

The Yolo Basin Foundation would like to thank John Whitcombe, Paul Makley and Bill Roe of Tandem Properties for hosting the seventh annual "Bucks for Ducks" fund-raising reception. The picturesque setting next to the Northstar pond, created by Tandem Properties, was certainly an appropriate place for wildlife supporters to enjoy the evening. As the evening progressed, the many geese, ducks and egrets that circled over before settling into the pond seemed to be co-sponsors of the event and certainly reminded those present of the importance of their efforts.

The proceeds from Bucks for Ducks support the Foundation's activities throughout the year including the new *Discover the Flyway* program for schools and other activities on behalf of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Thank you to our over 50 sponsors and over 150 people attending the event.

Special thanks to the following donors of event supplies or in-kind services: Maggie Ferrari, Looking Glass Framing Gallery, Mustard Seed, and V. Santoni, Strelitzia Flower

Company, Valley Wine, Judy Whitcombe, and Judy Yost.

Also thank you to the following donors of raffle items: The Artery, Avid Reader, Cornflower Farms, Hal & Rosie Cushing, Davis Food Co-op, Discoveries, Giselles Travel, Home Plus, John Lescroart, The Naturalist, The Paint Chip and Super Salad.

Thank you to California Waterfowl Association, State Department of Fish and Game, Sandra Durrin and Tom & Meg Stallard for donations of art work and other items to the silent auction. Thank you to also to the following artists for donations of their work: Harry Adamson, Carol Brandt, Adele Farnshaw, Keith Hansen, Thomas Quint, Vicki Hipsley, Dave Sellers, Robert Solari, Sherrie Russell Melino, and Judy Whitcombe.

Thank you to our hardworking volunteers: Mickey Barlow, Barbara Neinsch, Joan Humphrey, Bill Julian, Liz Merry, Tandy Maxwell, Bob, Logan & Charlie Schneider, Natasha Roemer, Mary Schiedt, Iris Tenenbaum. We thank our many community supporters for making the event a great success for the seventh year in a row.

# California Duck Days

*"At last, an event  
that's all it's  
quacked up to be!"*

Join the thousands of wildlife  
enthusiasts headed for the  
Veterans Memorial Center  
in Davis, February 7 and 8th at  
California Duck Days 1998.

The largest wetlands festival in America,  
California Duck Days gathers top  
educators, hunters and lovers of the great  
outdoors for two days of workshops, field  
trips and fun for the whole family.

Lively workshops and demonstrations will  
please sportsmen and women, artists,  
backyard naturalists and kids. Activities  
include decoy carving, fly casting,  
waterfowl identification, duck calling, and  
arts and crafts displays. Best of all, you  
can watch thousands of geese, cranes,  
ducks, and shorebirds traveling the Pacific  
Flyway.

Registration is \$4 per day for adults, or  
just \$12 for a field trip pass. Children 14  
and under are admitted free. Volunteer  
opportunities are available. To find out  
more about California Duck Days '98 and  
get a free schedule of events, please call  
758-1206 or 800-423-5800.

## California Duck Days turns Five Years Old!

by Liz Merry, Duck Days Coordinator

California Duck Days will  
celebrate its fifth anniversary  
on February 7th and 8th,  
1998. For California wildlife festivals,  
that's no small accomplishment. The  
festival includes an impressive array  
of workshops, field trips,  
demonstrations, and a large  
Exhibition Hall full of educational  
displays and vendors. For the first  
time, the California Waterfowl  
Association (CWA) will co-host the  
festival with Yolo Basin Foundation  
by combining their annual  
Exposition into the wetlands  
weekend in Davis.

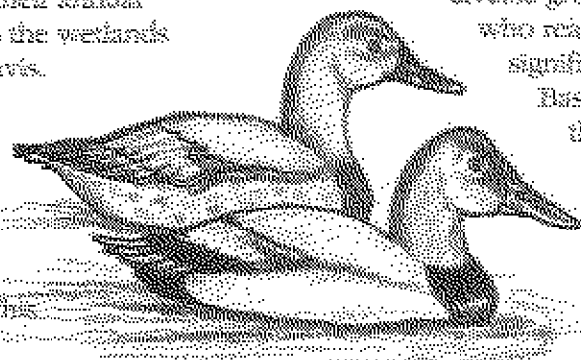
CWA's  
participation  
adds a whole  
new level of  
content and  
volunteer  
commitment. This  
year the Wood  
Duck Symposium  
will also be taking place at UC Davis  
during the festival.

Each year since its inception, the  
planners of Duck Days have noticed  
more and more wildlife festivals  
springing up in California. In  
November, 1996, we met with festival  
coordinators from throughout  
California at the National Watchable-  
Wildlife conference. During those  
discussions it became clear there are a  
few key ingredients that make  
California Duck Days a cherished  
event for everyone involved.

First, this festival is run by and for  
people passionate about wetlands  
and wildlife. The mission of the  
festival is to "educate and inspire,"  
and the volunteers who lend their  
knowledge and skills to the festival  
pass on their own inspiration to the  
participants.

Second, the mixture of talent,  
knowledge, and interest in the Davis  
area seems unsurpassed. At UC Davis,  
professors, graduate students,  
administrators, undergraduates and  
alumni understand the importance of  
translating knowledge into action in  
order to support wildlife and habitat.  
The California Duck Days experience  
could not be equaled without the  
energies and creativity lent by the  
folks at UC Davis.

Third, the festival began as a  
vision of Bob Schneider's and a  
diverse group of people  
who realized the  
significance of the Yolo  
Basin wetlands to  
the Pacific Flyway.  
In order to  
celebrate the  
wetlands and  
provide a fun,  
educational  
event to the  
public, they



organized under the auspices of the  
Yolo Environmental Resource Center,  
with Elaine Hebert at the helm as  
Coordinator and Bob Barnes lending  
his support and experience from  
many other wildlife festivals. The first  
Duck Days was held only five months  
after the first "Steering Committee"  
decided the event would take place.  
In 1995 Duck Days became a project  
of the Yolo Basin Foundation.

Today we begin planning the  
festival almost the day after it ends.  
The energy created from the event  
last February was tangible with each  
Steering Committee excited about  
making it even better in 1998. I'm  
extremely proud to let you know,  
they've done it. The festival will be an  
amazing, diverse, content-deep and  
activity-rich weekend full of fun. It's  
going to be the best California Duck  
Days yet! We'll see you there.



# EAGLES

by John Kamper

When we think of Yolo County, we generally don't think of eagles, but we should. We've got both kinds of eagles here, and seem to be getting more of them.

The classic eagle, of course, is the Bald Eagle, our national emblem. Almost everyone recognizes an adult Bald Eagle, with its white head and tail. Recognizing an *immature* Bald Eagle, however, is not so easy, and we'll talk about that later.

Bald Eagles have been on the increase everywhere, including in Yolo County. There is a significant winter population in Cache Creek Canyon, and birds from there regularly drift downstream as far as Ramsey and Guinda. In November, 1997, one was even spotted in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, and we can probably count on seeing them there more often, as the duck population increases.

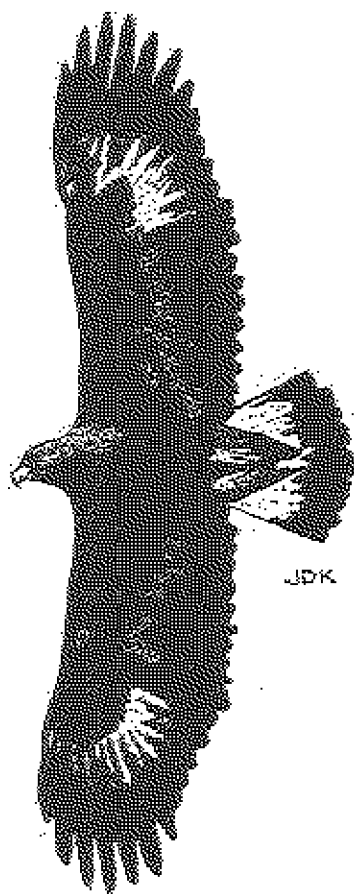
The wildlife programs on TV tell us that Bald Eagles are principally consumers of fish, and so they are, provided there are fish around for them to get. But when fish aren't readily available, they live on geese, ducks, and coots, and to some extent on small mammals. Do they occasionally prey on lambs, as charged by many ranchers? Some observers claim they have seen them do that, although in many cases the eagles probably picked up the lambs after they were already dead.

Bald Eagles are capable of taking ducks on the wing, and frequently do so. However, another technique they use is to harass a duck on the water. The duck dives each time it is attacked, but the eagle pursues it and attacks each time it surfaces until the duck is exhausted.

If the duck can get airborne, it generally has a better chance of

escaping, but some ducks require a long and clumsy takeoff before they can get aloft. Occasionally, such clumsy fliers have escaped by surfacing directly under the eagle's tail, and taking off before the eagle can turn around.

Our other eagle is the Golden Eagle. Usually these are birds of the foothills and mountains, but again, one was recently spotted in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Golden Eagles mostly prey on small mammals, but



have been known to attack animals as large as antelopes, deer, lambs, dogs, cats, young pigs, and foxes.

Do they also carry off human babies? The answer appears to be no, although that is not to say they wouldn't do so if given the opportunity. There is at least one case, apparently authentic, of a Golden Eagle attacking a nine-year-old girl, although the attacker was beaten off. A factor that works against such attacks is the limit of how much

an eagle can lift off the ground. In one experiment, an eagle weighing 41 pounds could not lift a weight of 5 1/2 pounds. But in another case, an observer saw an eagle carry off a 7-pound jackrabbit.

What about this business of identifying immature eagles? Well, that's one of the tougher problems for birders, because immature Bald Eagles and immature Golden Eagles can look much alike. It takes 4 to 5 years to gain adult plumage, for both kinds of eagles. As immatures, they are generally brown with blotchy white areas. The location of these white areas provides one of the keys to identification.

If the eagle shows white areas at the base of the primaries (the major flight feathers), it's a Golden Eagle, because Bald Eagles don't do that. (See accompanying illustration.) If it shows white in the "arm-pits" (called the *axillaries*), it's a Bald Eagle, because Golden Eagles don't do that. But immature eagles can get very creative about how much white they're going to show in these areas, so it's not always quite so easy.

Another place to look is at the white areas of the tail. In both species, there will probably be some white at the base of the tail when they're young. If the white area is sharply delineated from the black at the end of the tail, that's a sign it's probably a Golden Eagle. The white on Bald Eagles tends to be more diffuse.

Another key is how much the eagle's head projects in front of the wing, when the bird is soaring. If the head projection is less than half the tail length, then it's a Golden Eagle. If it's more than half the tail length, it's a Bald Eagle.

Easy, isn't it? Just wait until you get one with intermediate characteristics, and also find yourself unable to decide whether the head sticks out more than, or less than, a half-tail length. You might have to put it down as "Eagle, unidentified."

# CITY OF DAVIS WETLANDS UPDATE

by Mike Corner, Wildlife Resource Specialist, City of Davis,  
Public Works Dept.

The earthwork for the City's wetlands has been completed. The final inspection for acceptance from the contractor is scheduled for the end of December. Presently, the city is filling the site with reclaimed water at a rate of five million gallons per day and four of the seven permanent areas are inundated. Although the wetland is mostly devoid of vegetation, some waterfowl including tundra swans have begun using the site. The planting contract will begin January 1, 1998. The City and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are pleased to announce that Sierra View Landscape Inc. was awarded that contract. Sierra View has a great track record with their work for the City's Woodbridge Park project and

the California Department of Fish & Game's Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. During the next year the City Wetlands will be planted with over 6,000 trees and shrubs, and the entire 400 acres will be seeded with native grasses and forbs. Emergent aquatic species such as bulrush and spike rush will be plug planted. During the fall of 1998 volunteers will be supplied with native grass seeds, soil and containers to grow plugs that will be planted into the city wetlands in December. If you are interested then please leave your name and address with Mike Corner at (530) 757-5686 x7531. Public access to the area should begin sometime in 1998.

Visit the new Yolo Basin Foundation website at [www.yolobasin.org](http://www.yolobasin.org). There you will find information on Yolo Basin Foundation programs including a detailed field trip schedule. Thank you to Iris Impechman and Lois Fisher for many hours of volunteer time getting this site up and running.

## JOIN THE YOLO BASIN FOUNDATION

I would like to become a friend of the Yolo Basin Foundation. Enclosed is a donation of:

☐ \$25    ☐ \$35    ☐ \$50    ☐ \$100    ☐ other

Please make checks payable to Yolo Basin Foundation and mail to P.O. Box 943, Davis, CA 95617. Donations of \$25 or more will receive a complimentary set of Western Waterfowl Identification cards. Donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your support.

name \_\_\_\_\_

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P.O. BOX 943  
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Figure 6

Yolo Basin Foundation Background Flyer

*"There is no challenge facing this country that we cannot meet if we will just do what you have done here."*

—President Bill Clinton at the dedication ceremony for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, November 15, 1997

When you drive on Interstate 80 east toward the Yolo Causeway between Davis and Sacramento, you may see the large sign identifying the Yolo Basin Wetlands. That sign with the logos of the many Yolo Basin partners marks the location of one of the nation's most exciting developments in nature conservation and public education. The Yolo Basin Wetlands, officially known as the **Yolo Bypass State Wildlife Area**, is the largest public/private restoration project west of the Everglades. 3,700 acres of land in the Yolo Bypass floodway have been converted to wetlands and other habitats.

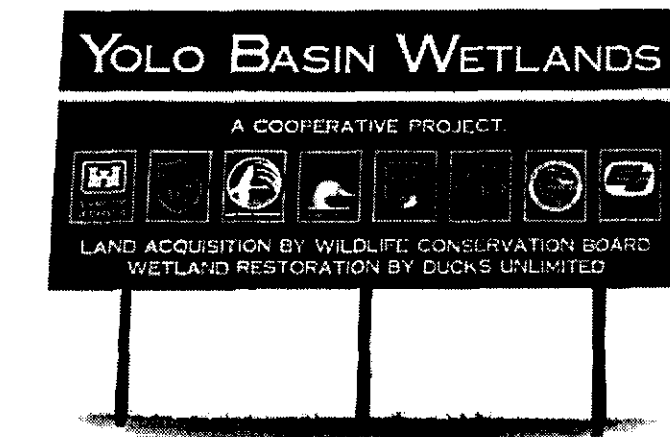
When President Bill Clinton visited on November 15 to dedicate this remarkable Area, he hailed the project as a national model for meeting the challenge of "trying to grow our economy and lift our standard of living while improving, not diminishing, our environment." He acknowledged the extraordinary collaboration and effort that have enabled this mosaic of seasonal and year round ponds, grasslands and riparian forest - covering six square miles and home to nearly 200 species of birds - to thrive alongside Interstate 80, one of America's busiest people thoroughways, next to a bustling metropolitan area and in the heart of one of the country's richest agricultural areas.

Biologists for the California Department of Fish and Game, the new managers, have opened portions of the area to the public for wildlife viewing and waterfowl hunting. The Yolo Basin Foundation is pleased to have reached this milestone and is offering numerous opportunities to introduce people to the Wildlife Area.

**Yolo Basin Foundation** was founded in 1990 as a community based organization to assist in the establishment of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The Foundation is a non-profit public benefit corporation dedicated to educating and inspiring people about wetlands and wildlife of the Central Valley. Its 15-member board of directors represents a diverse group of interests, from agriculture and waterfowl conservation to local government and the business community. It is universally credited with being the driving force behind the partnership that created the Yolo Basin Wetlands project. Yolo Basin Foundation continues as the communication link between the many people and organizations involved in creating and managing the wildlife area.

A principal goal of the Foundation is facilitating environmental education in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Now that the restoration of the wildlife area is complete, the Foundation is ready to move forward with its educational mission. We want to share this spectacular resource with the world.

In August 1997 we held the first of our **Discover the Flyway** teacher workshops. The purpose of this new program is to introduce Sacramento area teachers to the Wildlife Area so that they can bring their classes out for exciting



and productive field studies. Each teacher is given a handbook with background information and suggested hands-on field and class activities for enhancing their studies. The fifty teachers attending the first workshops plan to take their classes to the Wildlife Area at least once this year. Over 600 second through sixth-graders visited the wildlife Area between October and December, more than halfway toward our goal of 800 students during the 1997-98 school year. Construction is underway for a three-acre demonstration wetland that will serve as an easily accessible outdoor classroom. Additional **Discover the Flyway** workshops will be scheduled in the future. The Foundation is also recruiting and training a cadre of volunteers to participate by assisting teachers or getting involved in other aspects of the program.

Other educational programs underway include: sponsoring the fifth annual California Duck Days - a two-day waterfowl and wetlands festival in the heart of the Pacific Flyway to be held February 7-8, 1998; publishing the Yolo Flyway newsletter; maintaining a web page at [www.yolobasin.org](http://www.yolobasin.org); bringing wetlands education into the schools with our Wild About Wetlands classroom kits; and, introducing people to the natural places in the community through field trips. This year we are offering tours of the wildlife area once a month in partnership with Yolo Audubon Society.

In addition to our educational programs, the Foundation recently established a working group to plan for the building and operation of an internationally recognized Pacific Flyway Center near the wildlife Area. Costs are estimated at \$10 million to create a world-class visitor center.

The establishment of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and the work of the Foundation have been widely regarded as a model for planning and completion of other wetland projects in the Yolo Bypass. The bypass is a key component of the habitat restoration planned as part of the Cal/Fed Bay Delta Accord process now underway, and is a vital element of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture's habitat restoration goals. The Foundation will be an important local player in implementing these many plans.

## BUILDING ON SUCCESS

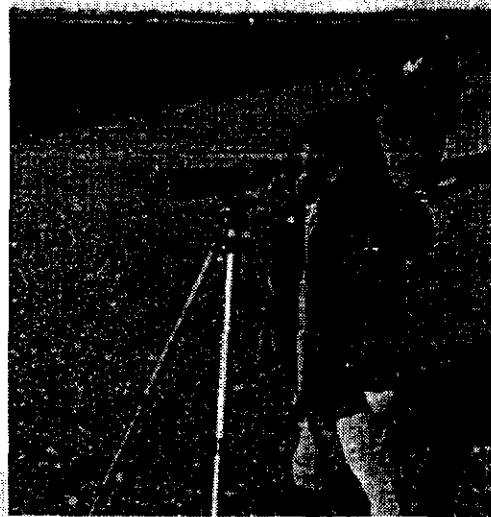
The Foundation has a proven record of success. Our efforts have been recognized in many ways. In August 1995, over 150 people attended a groundbreaking celebration at the Yolo Basin Wetlands site. There the Foundation was presented with a National Wetlands Conservation Award from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. At that ceremony, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt lauded our success at creating the largest wetlands restoration project west of the Everglades.

Other awards to the Foundation include the Award for Excellence in nonprofit management given by the San Francisco-based Management Center and The People at Chevron. At the State of Estuary Conference in October, 1996, the Foundation was recognized for outstanding implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan for the San Francisco Bay Estuary. In 1997, California Duck Days was honored at the State of the Sacramento Watershed Conference for excellence in education.

Our dream is to reach all the children in the region, and let them experience for themselves the joy of seeing 100,000 geese and swans in a vast wetland. We feel that the most crucial element in conservation of wildlife resources is to make the next generation understand why wildlife habitat deserves protection. We want children to see first-hand this regional treasure, and to help them understand why all of us must preserve the wetlands of the Pacific Flyway.

*"This project is the embodiment of not only what we should be doing as Americans on the edge of a new century, but how we should be doing it."*

—President Bill Clinton



# yolo *b*ASIN fOUNDATION

PO Box 943, Davis, CA 95617 (530) 756-7248

Visit our website at [www.yolobasin.org](http://www.yolobasin.org)

For **Discover the Flyway** or field trip information: call (530)758-1018; email [flywayyb@yolobasin.org](mailto:flywayyb@yolobasin.org)

For **Duck Days** information call: (800)425-5001 or (530)758-1286; email: [duckdays@yolobasin.org](mailto:duckdays@yolobasin.org)

For **Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area** access information contact **State Fish & Game Wildlife Area Headquarters** at (530)757-2461; 45211 County Road 32B (Chiles), Davis, CA 95616

Staff: Robin Kulakow, Executive Director; Liz Merry, Program Coordinator;  
Bob Schneider, Pacific Flyway Center Coordinator; Administrative assistants: Mickey Barlow and Iris Tennenbaum

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Figure 7

Newspaper Articles

# Los Angeles Times

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1997

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LOS ANGELES TIMES

B8

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1997 \*

## Wetlands Victory

*Massive effort takes shape as Sacramento-area bird refuge*

For more than a century, farmers and developers have transformed California's wetlands and marshes into cropland and housing tracts. Only about 5% of the state's original wetlands remain. But now, in a cooperative venture that is a model for the rest of California, part of the Sacramento Valley has been returned to a more natural state as the 3,400-acre Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.

More than eight years of effort, including habitat development costing \$17 million, will culminate Saturday with President Clinton's dedication of the new refuge in the Yolo Bypass, a massive flood control channel just west of Sacramento. The area will be managed by the state Department of Fish and Game as a new stopping ground for the hundreds of thousands of waterfowl migrating along the Pacific Flyway.

The lesson of the Yolo refuge, Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt said when construction began, is that "agriculture, wildlife and a dynamic urban area can work together."

The two-mile-wide bypass, essentially a huge ditch, was originally built to carry floodwaters of the Sacramento River around the

capital during winter storms. In dry periods, the table-flat land is planted in crops. For years, environmentalists have sought ways to make portions of the bypass more amenable to migratory birds, including ducks, geese, swans, cranes and even eagles. But the project was immensely complicated. Land had to be purchased from private owners. State and federal flood control agencies had to be convinced that new wildlife habitat could be created without impeding flood flows. The participants had to work around endangered species laws.

At the center of the effort was the volunteer Yolo Basin Foundation. Others involved included Ducks Unlimited, a hunters organization, and the state and federal agencies dealing with flood control and wildlife management. Financing was a joint federal-state effort.

Shoreline areas have been made habitat-friendly by dredging and bulldozing. Ponds were built and sustained through the use of dikes, pumps and channels. Educational tours are beginning. Officials call it the largest wetland restoration project west of the Florida Everglades. Build a model like this and the birds will come, on whispering wings.

# The Sacramento Bee

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**"It's been a lot of hard work, but it's a complicated process. It took eight years, but it's going to be here forever."**

— Robin Kulakow, executive director of the Yolo Basin Foundation



Getting ready for President Clinton, Mark Cowan, left, and Teresa Pineda of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, pull abandoned tires

from ponds Tuesday at the western edge of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, which will be dedicated Saturday.

## Yolo wildlife project model of cooperation

By John P. Cox  
Bee Staff Writer

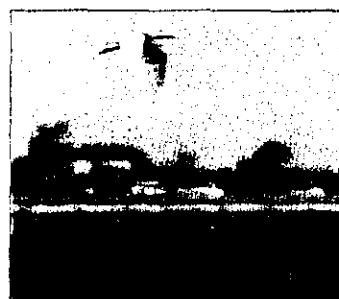
The Yolo Bypass wetlands project, which is scheduled to be dedicated Saturday, has been hailed as a model of cooperation between government and private groups.

The project, which is the largest of its kind in the state, is a partnership between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Yolo Basin Foundation, and the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.

Robin Kulakow, executive director of the Yolo Basin Foundation, said the project is a model of cooperation between government and private groups.

The project was a result of a partnership between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Yolo Basin Foundation, and the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The project is a model of cooperation between government and private groups.

Please see BAP188, back page, A12



An egret and traffic on Interstate 80 over the Yolo Causeway head east across the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, which was created by a partnership of government agencies and private groups.

## Bypass: Unusual wetlands partnership draws national attention

Continued from page A1

The idea became a reality, as the Yolo Bypass wetlands project, which is scheduled to be dedicated Saturday, has been hailed as a model of cooperation between government and private groups.

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of the watershed that is the Pacific Flyway.

"When you look at what is to be here historically, we've lost 95 percent of the historic wetlands that used to occupy this area," he said. "You wind up with 50 percent of the dryway, water and holding on only 5 percent of the habitat that used to be here. Whenever you have an opportunity to put some of it back, that plays a vital role in conservation efforts."

Sacramento's mission of creating the wildlife area has marked a change in the role of the Yolo Basin Foundation from one of advocacy to education, Kulakow said.

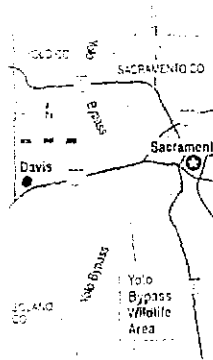
"It's a wonderful educational opportunity," she said.

So easily accessible to the urban area, the refuge could attract tens of thousands of birdwatchers. Already, the foundation has

launched a training program for teachers in the region.

The project is expected to open to the public in late 1997. Details of the schedule have not been announced.

Clinton's visit to the area later will include an invitation-only bird-watching luncheon in Sacramento.



In search of ...



Sue Cockrell/The Enterprise

From left, Karleigh Rose, Helen Yasko and Monica Ordoñez use their binoculars to get a closer look at birds in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area during a field trip to the site east of Davis Wednesday morning. The girls are students in Dorothy Petersen's second-grade class at Pioneer Elementary School. Their visit was one of the first offered through the Yolo Basin Foundation's new Discover the Flyway educational program. For details, see story on Page A-2.

second-grade class at Pioneer Elementary School. Their visit was one of the first offered through the Yolo Basin Foundation's new Discover the Flyway educational program. For details, see story on Page A-2.

## Schoolchildren discover the Yolo Bypass flyway

"I found a bug!" was one of the most common exclamations from Belinda Kesser's second-grade class as they initiated the Discover the Flyway program in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area for the first time last Friday.

The children searched wetland water for protozoan creatures, explored the difference between natural and non-natural items, and were thrilled by the presence of blue herons, great egrets and many flocks of ducks flying into the Wildlife Area for their winter layover.

The Discover the Flyway program started in late August, when 47 elementary school teachers were trained how to use the Wildlife Area as an outdoor classroom for their students.

"The teachers are very enthusiastic about the opportunity to use this new resource," said Dorothy Petersen, a second-grade teacher at Pioneer Elementary School. She brought her students to the wetlands on Wednesday to add the hands-on experience of the place to her classroom lessons about water, wildlife and the environment.

Her students sampled the wa-

ter, planted sedges in the mud and walked the "Un-Natur Trail" during their two-hour field trip to the Wildlife Area.

Jean Rissman, a teacher at Silverville Primary School in Dixon led the first classroom sedge planting in the area.

"The children enjoyed the mud and the critters," Rissman said, "and I believe they will remember this trip for a very long time."

Cornflower Farms donated the sprouted sedge plants that were planted by the children, and the California Department of Fish and Game coordinated the planting effort.

The Discover the Flyway program provides support for the teachers who completed the initial workshops by providing learning materials and volunteer assistance.

The Yolo Basin Foundation intends to provide mini-workshops about the wetlands for teachers, parents and volunteers interested in helping with the field trips in November. Anyone interested in volunteering, or teachers interested in visiting the wetlands, should call 758-1018.

DAVIS ENTERPRISE  
10/16/97



*"You ought to be very proud of (this project) and also draw confidence from this that there is no challenge facing this country today that we cannot face."*

— President Clinton

# Clinton praises wetlands project



Mark Bullard/The Enterprise

Above, President Clinton lifts his binoculars to view the wildlife during a tour of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area on Saturday morning. Joining Clinton on the walking tour are, from left, Deputy Interior Secretary

John Garamendi, who once represented Davis in the state Senate, farmer Greg Schmid, who used to raise crops on the acreage now restored as wetlands, Rep. Vic Fazio, D-West Sacramento, and Robln Kulakow of

the Yolo Basin Foundation. At top, Clinton greets some of the invited guests who braved wind and rain — and who waited for hours in the cold and mud — to attend the dedication ceremony.

► Rain can't dampen spirits as president acknowledges this public-private venture

More stories, photos on Page A-8

by MELANIE TURNER  
Enterprise staff writer

Robin Kulakow of Davis never imagined she would walk alongside the president of the United States through the wet-

lands she holds so dear to her heart.

But under dark skies and drizzle, and tramping through the mud, Kulakow, executive director of the Yolo Basin Foundation, pointed out various bird species to President Clinton on Saturday.

Clinton, who came to Davis to formally dedicate the 3,700-acre wildlife area, called it a model for dealing with many of the nation's problems. The delicate agreement meshing endangered species and flood control interests may set precedent

for future projects.

The public-private project shows that wildlife, flood control and agriculture can co-exist in a largely urban setting.

Clinton said the project is the "embodiment of not only what we should be doing as Americans on the edge of the 21st Century, but how we should be doing it."

Clinton added that those who made it happen should be proud.

"You ought to be very proud of it and also draw confidence from this that there

is no challenge facing this country today that we cannot face," he said while addressing the 1,000 people who attended the wetlands dedication.

Clinton arrived via motorcade after Air Force One touched down at McClellan Air Force Base. The president's 26-car motorcade drove along a levee road to the wetlands, located in a flood control channel south of Interstate 80 and east of Davis.

See CLINTON, Page A-9



# 'CLINTON

Continued from Page A-1

Attendance at the event was by invitation only. Attendees included local elected officials, and family and friends of the organizations that helped turn the eight-year project into a reality.

They left cold and wet, but uplifted.

"I'm still coming to grips with the fact that this truly is a national resource. Right here in Yolo County," said Dave Rosenberg of Davis, chairman of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors.

Commonly referred to as the Putah Sinks, the area serves as a rest stop along the Pacific Flyway, a route used annually by thousands of migratory birds. Some of the land is reserved for hunting, hiking and wildlife watching, while other areas are sealed off as a wildlife sanctuary.

On Saturday, Clinton donned a red U.S. Army Corps of Engineers cap, a blue-green windbreaker and khakis. He stood atop a podium in the rain with a grassy pond as a backdrop, recognizing the cooperative efforts of public and private partnerships.

The result — the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area — is now the largest wetlands restoration project east of the Florida Everglades.

Clinton said the land reminded him of his home state.

"When I crossed that levee today, I thought I was back home in Eastern Arkansas, and I kept waiting for someone to get me my waders and a gun to go duck hunting."

Clinton said one of the biggest challenges the nation will have to face is how to increase our economy while improving, not diminishing our environment. Whereas once people thought the environment would "take care of itself," or thought, "It's a necessary price we'll have to pay," now we know better, he said.

Many observers of the long process agree that without the tireless work of Kulakow, 40, and the Yolo Basin Foundation, the project would have washed away long ago.

A group of people from Yolo Audubon Society and Putah Creek Council, including Ted Beedy and Steve Chainey, first conceived of the idea in 1989 for re-creating a wetlands habitat.

The Yolo Basin Foundation is a non-profit corporation dedicated to educating people about wetlands and wildlife. It formed that same year to promote the establishment of the wildlife area.

Around 1900, the area was developed into a facility for diverting Sacramento River floodwaters away from the city and into the Delta.

Kulakow picked up the project after

*"(Rep. Vic Fazio) has been truly the major supporter and sponsor of this effort. No matter what obstacle was thrown up against it, he managed to negotiate a solution through consensus and compromise. And it's quite a legacy for him, I believe. And for all of us."*

— Davis Mayor Lois Wolk

some initial discussions and invited more people to join in their vision. Eventually, she quit her job as a soils scientist with the state to be a full-time volunteer on the project.

Later, volunteers managed to convince the state and federal government of the project's value. The wetlands restoration project ultimately was created with state, federal and private support. The federal government contributed \$12 million of the \$17 million cost, with the state contributing the balance.

After years of negotiations between the Army Corps of Engineers, private organizations, the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture Coalition, the state Reclamation Board, Department of Water Resources, state Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an agreement was reached to balance the needs of floodplain managers and environmentalists.

The Yolo Basin Foundation helped to negotiate an agreement among all the agencies that addressed their concerns about endangered species and management of vegetation and recognized the first function of the bypass as flood control.

Many on Saturday, including Clinton, thanked Rep. Vic Fazio, D-West Sacramento, for his constant support of this and other environmental efforts. Fazio worked to secure federal funds for the project.

"Vic has been truly the major supporter and sponsor of this effort," Davis Mayor Lois Wolk said afterwards. "No matter what obstacle was thrown up against it, he managed to negotiate a solution through consensus and compromise. And it's quite a legacy for him, I believe. And for all of us."

Fazio has spoken many times before the people of Yolo County about wetlands issues. But he said he's never had a better time doing it than he did on Saturday.

"I don't think I've ever had more fun than the day I brought along the president of the United States," Fazio told the crowd.

The permanent ponds in the bypass already are attracting more waterfowl than ever before. Almost 10,000 ducks showed up one recent morning in one small area of the wetlands that wasn't flooded last year.

Less than 5 percent of California's historical wetlands remain today, Fazio said.

The wetlands project mimics seasonal flooding, explained Bill Gaines, director of government affairs and chairman of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture.

"In essence, you're farming for ducks," Gaines said. "You build it and they will come."

Ten years ago, waterfowl populations had dropped to about 50 million birds on the North American continent. Already, because of similar efforts inspired by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan signed by the United States and Canada, and with some help from mother nature, those numbers are up to from 90 to 100 million birds of various species, Gaines said.

Ground work on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area project began two years ago. For starters, an eight-acre riparian forest was planted. It's now thriving. Some trees are as tall as seven feet. Earth in the bypass has been sculpted into large, shallow ponds.

Contractors under the supervision of Ducks Unlimited did the earth-moving work to create the thousands of acres of seasonal and permanent ponds that make up the wildlife area. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Ducks Unlimited also contributed to the project's construction.

Oversight of the area was transferred Saturday to Fish and Game.

Clinton said efforts like the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area will actually help the state conserve water by, as one example, using less water runoff in the future.

"You're doing the right thing and you're doing it in the right way," he told the audience.

"...I've seen a glimpse of America's future and I like it."

# Diverse partnerships work to produce united results

by Robin Kulakow

Sometimes, well-meaning community activists and volunteers are stymied even before they begin a large-scale project. They realize their only chance of success lies in bringing together a group that seems impossibly diverse. Take heart – if we could do it, so can you!

One of the most important lessons I've learned from my involvement with the Yolo Basin Foundation the past eight years is that when it comes to the right cause, the most diverse partnerships can not only "work" – they can produce historic results.

Our foundation is a coalition of local, state and federal government agencies, elected officials and conservation groups, environmentalists, biologists, engineers, duck hunters, farmers, landowners and interested citizens – all of whom happen to care about restoring wetlands and educating people about the importance of preserving wildlife habitats.

Even our 15-member board of directors reflects our diversity. It includes a retired professor who is a farmer, a certified public accountant, Realtors, land brokers, builders, biologists, business leaders and elected officials. We came together from all across the political spectrum to create what is now ac-

## POINT OF VIEW



Robin Kulakow

She says applying basic business principles was a key to the Yolo Basin Foundation's continued viability.

knowledgeable as the largest wetlands restoration project west of the Everglades.

The Wildlife Area we've worked to preserve is strategically located in the center of the Pacific Flyway, the international highway for birds as they travel south from the Arctic, Alaska and Canada to their winter homes in California's Central Valley or on to Mexico and South America. It's a patchwork quilt of seasonal and year-round ponds, grasslands and riparian forest covering six square miles – an area that nearly 200 species of birds call home. Remarkably, this unique area is right alongside Interstate 80, next to a major metropolitan area and within one of the nation's richest agricultural areas.

When President Clinton visited here on Nov. 15 to dedicate the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, he hailed the project as a national model for meeting the challenge of "trying to grow our economy and lift our standard of living while improving, not diminishing, our environment."

So what, exactly did we do – and why shouldn't others do it as well?

The most important point is that even though we're uniquely disparate as individuals, we've always been single-mindedly solution-oriented as a group. We selected a very focused goal and stuck to it.

From the inception of our efforts, all possible stakeholders have been involved in decision-making.

A key to our operation's continued viability is that we've applied the basic principles of business to this not-for-profit operation. That means having a business plan, a budget and attainable goals. In fact, for me, running the Yolo Basin Foundation is similar to operating a small business – albeit, one fortunate to have hundreds of volunteers willing to spend hours licking stamps and making phone calls to attorneys, engineers, scientists and other professionals willing to donate their expertise whenever the project threatened to get bogged down.

Today, our California Duck Days celebration – a two-day waterfowl and wet-

lands festival enjoying its fifth successful season Feb. 7-8 – is the largest such event in the nation. It mobilizes hundreds of volunteers and professionals to supplement its austere budget.

In the first quarter of its existence, our Discover the Flyway educational program introduced 600 children to the Wildlife Area, which is more than half-way toward our annual goal of 800 students. Second- through sixth-graders and their teachers are flocking to the area from schools throughout the region. Construction is under way for a two-acre demonstration wetland that will serve as an outdoor classroom for students of all ages.

Our coalition is now committed to raising \$10 million to realize our next goal: The creation and operation of an internationally recognized Pacific Flyway Center near the Wildlife Area.

If there's a central theme to all of this, I'd like to urge anyone who has ever been frustrated at organizing a worthy grass-roots effort to remember these simple rules that have allowed us to begin to achieve our goals:

1. Don't set out to create a group of like-minded individuals. Diversity doesn't have to mean adversity – and when other voices are encouraged to speak up, it's truly amazing how creative and problem-solving a group can be.

2. Run your effort, no matter how small, like a good business. Be mindful of bottom lines and market realities. The more professionally run your effort is perceived to be, the more willing individuals and businesses will be to work with you.

3. Don't quit while you're ahead. For many of us, having President Clinton visit our project and speak glowingly of it could have been a climax instead of a new beginning. We feel that having the world's attention, we can concentrate on what we started out to do: educate the next generation of Americans about the importance of preserving wetlands and other wildlife habitats. If our children learn to care about (and enjoy) their environment and where they live, they'll grow up to be concerned citizens and educated decision makers.

*Robin Kulakow is executive director of the Yolo Basin Foundation, which will host its fifth annual Duck Days Wetlands Celebration Feb. 7-8. For information, call 530-758-1286. The organization's web address is [www.yolobasin.org](http://www.yolobasin.org).*

**POINT OF VIEW**, a weekly column in Sunday Business, is aimed at providing an opportunity for local business people and others to express their opinions on a subject of current economic interest. Contributions are welcome.

# WETLANDS

Continued from Page A-1

"If there ever was a contest for who knows the most government phone numbers by heart, I'd probably be a finalist," she said.

It is Kulakow's hope that the Yolo Basin Wetlands Project will serve not only as a wildlife sanctuary, but an observatory for schoolchildren. The foundation's primary goal is education.

When completed late next year, the project will include a wildlife sanctuary as well as areas with public access, where people can go to observe sandhill cranes and snow geese.

It will include mostly seasonal wetland (77 percent), with some permanent wetland (6 percent), grassland (16 percent) and riparian woodland (1 percent).

"Why did we do this?," she asked. "We worked to create the wildlife area for our children. This place is for David ... Leah ... Sarah ... Joey ... Katrina ... Charlie ...," she said, listing the names of several children, including her own and those whose parents worked on the project.

As she listed the names, she was near tears.

"Go for it, Robin," Supervisor Betsy Marchand said from her seat near the podium. Marchand is a member of the foundation's board of directors and has supported the project from the start.

"I hope that they will chase dragonflies, learn about insects, search for otters, listen for bitterns and count geese," Kulakow continued, smiling. "I hope this place will give them the opportunity to grow up to appreciate the place in which they live."

"It's such a great occasion at the end of such a long and productive struggle," said Fazio, who was instrumental in securing federal funds for the project. "We are once again in this community taking the lead."

Michael Spear, regional director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Pacific Region, told the crowd this is only the beginning.

"We envision 10,000 acres here," he said. Spear presented Kulakow and the Yolo Basin Foundation with the National Wetlands Conservation Award.

In late 1991, the state Wildlife Conservation Board bought most of the property on behalf of the Department of Fish and Game from PG&E Properties for \$4.57 million. When construction is completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Ducks Unlimited, oversight of the area will be transferred to Fish and Game.

Ducks Unlimited is working

under a contract with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with funding from the corps to design and build the wetlands.

Secretary of the Interior Babbitt spoke of the similarities between the largest restoration project in the Florida Everglades system and the second largest here in the Yolo Bypass. They each include "a concept of partnership, a quality of imagination and the important American ingredient of individuals."

He said a woman with a vision drove each project to fruition.

"Agriculture, wildlife and a dynamic urban area can work together, not exclusively," said Babbitt. "And I believe that message has to be spread across the entire country."

"The corps, for 100 years, successfully drained every swamp in the United States of America," he added, evoking laughter. "And now we're calling on them to put them back together."

Brig. Gen. Bruce Scott, commander of the South Pacific Division of the Army Corps of Engineers, said he hopes the project will serve as a role model for others across the nation.

"What a great day to be a soldier. What a great day to be an engineer," he said.

"What a spectacular day to celebrate the culmination of what many have called a unique partnership," added Col. Reese. "This is but the first in a series of steps on our way to restoring California's natural heritage."

The project uses canals and water control structures designed and constructed by the corps in an attempt to most closely simulate conditions of the bypass more than 100 years ago, while not obstructing the floodway.

Its creators hope it will eventually serve as an important link—a rest stop for migrant birds—along the Pacific Flyway.



Bee/Bryan Patrick

Robin Kulakow of the Yolo Basin Foundation said she found government workers who liked the refuge idea but none to champion it.

## 3,000-acre wildlife refuge designated in Yolo Bypass

By Jim Mayer  
Bee Staff Writer

In winters to come, when the rejuvenated swamps are full of geese from Alaska and cranes from Siberia, the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area will be remembered as the preserve almost done in by the Endangered Species Act.

Three thousand acres between Davis and West Sacramento on Monday were officially designated as the Yolo refuge, which will re-create some of the vast marsh that once defined the lower Sacramento Valley and the swarms of creatures that feasted among the tules.

But the Yolo project stands out from other efforts to reverse the diking and draining that has left just 5 percent of the Central Valley's marshes in existence — and a growing list of marsh-dependent species arm-wrestling with extinction.

The first notable accomplishment was convincing flood-control engineers, people responsible for much of the swamp busting, to even allow a wetland inside the flood bypass between West Sacramento and Davis.

The second, and even greater, landmark was

the deal signed Monday that supporters say proves the Endangered Species Act can be flexible.

"Too often in the environmental arena we are concerned about what we can lose," observed Lt. Col. Mike Stuhr, deputy district director for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Sacramento. "We need to look at what we can gain."

Stuhr was among the dignitaries chased off a levee by rain and into a Port of Sacramento meeting room for the official signing and proclamations ending years of difficult negotiations.

"It's probably a great day to be a duck," Stuhr said, speaking of the weather, not the promised marsh.

Universally, the dignitaries gave credit to environmental advocates with the Yolo Basin Foundation for ensuring the vision to restore the bypass was not blinded by the sometimes limited vision of government agencies.

"It is not possible for this kind of project to go forward ... unless committed citizens hold our feet to the fire," said state Resources Secretary Douglas Wheeler.

Please see WETLANDS, page B4



Project supporters hope endangered species are lured to the refuge. They agree to accept any habitat damage done by maintenance.

★ ★ The Sacramento Bee Final ★ Tuesday, April 26, 1994

## Wetlands: Plan inspired during Putah Creek fight

Continued from page B1

Robin Kulakow, executive director of the Yolo Basin Foundation, said she found government employees who liked the idea but no one who would champion it.

"There has to be someone outside of government with the freedom to talk with everyone," she said. "I could listen to everyone's story and see where we agree and disagree and then propose solutions. I was free to ask for help."

Yolo environmentalists dreamed up the project during the drought as they tried to save Putah Creek.

The small stream once roiled out of the Coast Range and dumped into the swampy lowlands that in wet seasons were filled by the overflowing Sacramento River.

The creek is now blocked by Monticello Dam, which forms Lake Berryessa. And the creek's terminus is now the bypass, the engineered relief valve that channels water around urban Sacramento.

Steve Chainey, also with the foundation, said the hard part wasn't coming up with the \$12 million to buy and build the wetlands on 3,000 acres of land.

The difficulty came when the dream collided with the history of stalemate between flood-control and wildlife agencies over maintaining existing levees in ways not harmful to endangered species.

Flood-control engineers were

concerned that the refuge would attract protected species, and that would hamstring maintenance in the bypass.

Project supporters do hope that endangered species are lured to the refuge — restoring habitat is a key strategy in reviving those species. But wildlife agents said they would accept any habitat damage done by maintenance because it would be under those conditions that creatures find the new marsh.

The agreement signed Monday goes that far.

Flood-control engineers also wanted to be promised that future maintenance operations would not be affected because of any new species added to the list.

"You don't have to back up many years to when we had two or three endangered species in this area," said Ray Barsch, executive director of the state Reclamation Board, which is charged with levee maintenance. "Now we have four or five. In a few years, we might have 15 that makes this agreement look pretty soft."

But wildlife agents said they couldn't make such a promise. And after months of debate everyone finally agreed to a leap of faith.

"We really felt they were going as far as they could go," Barsch said. "But if you look at the big picture this is an attempt to retrieve something that was here to begin with."



Karen Langer/The Daily Democrat

Boyd Gibbons, left, director of the state Department of Fish and Game, and David Kennedy, director of the state Department of Water Resources sign documents Monday officially designating the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area.

## 3,500-acre Yolo Basin Wildlife Area dedicated

Environmental protection reached a milestone Monday with the official designation of the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area.

County Supervisor Betsy Marchand said establishment of the wetlands is the culmination of a great deal of work.

"It shows that agencies can work together for a common project," she said this morning. The Yolo Basin Wildlife Area "will be here for future generations."

Marchand, who has been a proponent of the project for years, said she considers it "probably the most exciting thing I have been involved with since I have been on the Board of Supervisors."

Local and federal officials gathered on a levee overlooking the 3,500 acres of the project located between Davis and West Sacramento but were forced by Monday's rain inside to a meeting room to sign documents that will re-establish about 2,500 acres of seasonal and permanent wetlands.

The restoration project will restore 77 percent of the seasonal and 8 percent of the perennial wetlands, 16 percent of the uplands and grasslands and 1 percent of the riparian forest in the area.

The Army Corps of Engineers will design and construct canals, water-control structures, dikes, roads and gates to create and

See WILDLIFE, back page

## Wildlife

Continued from Page 1

maintain the wetlands areas.

Spearheaded by the Yolo Basin Foundation, the project upon will be managed completion by the state Department of Fish and Game.

The project is scheduled to begin this summer.

The agreements signed by the Bureau of Reclamation, the DFG, the state Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service end an impasse

between environmental wildlife groups and flood-control agencies.

Those agencies, charged with maintaining the levee system in the Yolo Bypass, have resisted efforts by wildlife groups to designate the area a refuge which would protect endangered species that use the refuge for habitat.

The agreements stipulate that the wildlife groups would allow levee maintenance to continue, even if some habitat damage results.

## OPINION

### The Sacramento Bee

Locally owned and edited for 138 years

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## Refuge in a flood channel

**T**he groundbreaking ceremonies this morning for the creation of a \$16 million wildlife refuge in the Yolo Bypass flood channel west of Sacramento represents the culmination of seven years of effort by environmentalists and a wide range of federal, state and local officials. Nearly all agree that much of the credit for finally bringing these disparate interests together belongs to Robin Kulakow, executive director the Yolo Basin Foundation.

The big question for the future is whether this same spirit of cooperation can be preserved once the construction is finished and the birds move in.

The project envisions reconfiguring 3,400 acres of the flood channel with trees, brush and ponds that would provide an important new habitat along the Pacific Flyway. The work won't restore the area to its natural state but aims instead at creating a hybrid environment that would be more hospitable to wildlife yet still not interfere with the use of the bypass for flood protection.

**T**he record of success for artificial wetlands projects of this kind is mixed; people just aren't as experienced yet as Mother Nature at building habitats. But state and federal flood control officials are satisfied they've come up with a design that won't interfere with current operation of the bypass. And state Fish and Game officials are confident they can construct all that additional marsh area in a way that will still keep the resulting mosquito population low enough so that there won't be any threat to public health.

The Corps of Engineers acknowledges, however, that its calculations only apply to the way the bypass is being run now, not to any changes that may be made in the years ahead. One of the options currently under consideration for enhancing flood protection for the Sacramento metropolitan area calls for passing much greater volumes of water into the bypass during extremely rainy periods. That would require major structural changes in the bypass itself. But the Army engineers haven't determined how those changes might conflict with the new habitat area — or if there'd be any conflict at all.

**T**he question is important because much of the success of the habitat depends ultimately upon the good will of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an agency that has often received low marks as a cooperative partner. The feds signed a formal agreement in 1994 promising not to interfere with the state's initial plan for the habitat. But once endangered species settle there, or if changes have to be made for flood protection, that attitude could change. The Fish and Wildlife biologists made no promises for the future, and state officials argued in 1994 that they had no choice but to make a leap of faith that the wildlife agency would act in good faith as the project evolves.

The proponents of the wildlife refuge have had to overcome a lot of bureaucratic resistance to bring about today's celebration. But their responsibility won't end with the turning of a first spadeful of earth. There are still plenty of questions that won't have answers until the refuge goes into operation.

# OPINION

## Editorial

### **Wetland refuge benefits county**

At long last the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area has been achieved.

It almost didn't happen because different agencies just couldn't come together. But because some people were very persistent there is now a refuge for wildlife on 3,000 acres between Davis and West Sacramento, which will re-create a vast wetland, reversing — if only a little — the effort to dike and drain the Central Valley marshes.

County Supervisor Betsy Marchand said the wildlife area is a culmination of a great deal of work and "shows that agencies can work together for a common project.

Marchand, who has been a proponent of the project for years, said she considers it "probably the most exciting thing I have been involved with since I have been on the Board of Supervisors."

We can credit the Yolo Basin Foundation and people like Robin Kulakow with having the vision to pursue the wetlands area. Kulakow is executive director of the Yolo Basin Foundation, and was quite correct when she said that people outside of government often have to talk to everyone, look for agreements and disagreements, and build from there. Too often, petty turf wars between state, federal and local agencies keep sensible things from being done.

To bring about the wetlands area the foundation first had to come up with \$12 million to buy and build the refuge. That wasn't tough. The hard part was working with flood-control and wildlife agencies over levee upkeep that wouldn't be harmful to endangered species. Flood control people were worried that if protected species were drawn to the refuge they couldn't perform needed levee maintenance. But wildlife managers said they could live with such problems because protected species in the long run would have a place to go. In the long run, however, we have a case where people have worked together to retrieve something that was originally here to being with. Cooperation toward a specific goal is never in vain. And cooperation to protect endangered species is a valiant goal.

Page 4 • The West Sacramento Press • Wednesday, February 19, 1992

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# Opinion

## What, we agree?

Interestingly enough, the recently dedicated State Wildlife Area in the Yolo Bypass at the Putah Creek Sinks received no opposition.

How can this be? We're Californians and nothing gets approval without a fight.

It must be because the project has such high ideals. Or, maybe it's because no one was looking and they slipped something good by us before we realized it. At any rate, the project will become a reality and nobody is kicking.

Another odd, but wonderful angle in the development of the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area is the involvement of the US Army Corps of Engineers. As we recall, they are the people who constructed the levees, saving us from floods, enabling vast areas of land to be developed, and helping us manage our water.

While accomplishing these necessary achievements, in the name of progress, we lost sight of some fragile balances in nature. It's encouraging to see the possibility of the pendulum of habitat destruction beginning to swing back to more comfortable levels.

Hopefully, West Sacramentans will realize what they have right in their backyard. It's an opportunity to watch the restoration efforts unfold. The Yolo Basin Foundation needs your generous assistance to continue its work in educating the public about the value of preserving our native wildlife and to create a place of beauty for generations to come. To join, call them at 756-7248 or write Yolo Basin Foundation, P.O. Box 943, Davis, CA 95617.



# Yolo: Working together

Continued from page B1  
Yolo Environmental Resource Center, the Yolo Basin Foundation and the Yolo Land Trust. Skeptical politicians have been assured that conservation can be addressed without ignoring all development or alienating landowners.

"It was a matter of getting people to work together and cooperate to preserve and enhance natural resources," said Yolo Supervisor Betsy Marchand. Cooperation, she said, is hard work. Everyone's concerns must be respected. Every obstacle must be worked through.

"We don't have enough money in this county to be fighting and trying to carry on," she said. "We try to use resources to get something done."

Resources are always relative. Yolo, even Chainey agrees, is not an oasis. "This is not an area where people come to live among spectacular landscapes," he said.

That reality previously encouraged Yolo conservationists to exert their activism. Today it shapes the current agenda. Preserving Yolo's groundwater is as important as saving oak trees. Wetlands fields are "open space."

And increasingly, Yolo is finding inspiration in what once was. Putah and Cache creeks are jammed and diverted. But they once tumbled freely out of the Coast Range and flooded the Yolo basin, now the engineered bypass.

The broad swamp that apparently earned the county its name - Yolo, some historians say, is the Indian word for tule - was long ago converted by the U.S. Army into a wide storm drain to save Sacramento from its namesake river.

Today the top Yolo goal is to manage the floodways and farmland in a way also conducive to wildlife. After four hard years, the Yolo Basin Foundation now predicts it is only a year away from "breaking ground" on a 3,100-acre restoration project where Putah Creek flows into the bypass.

Having down cooperation, conservationists are harvesting hope. This year, some basin growers flooded their land, and thousands of tundra swan, geese and white pelicans are wintering there.

Why Yolo? The university is a source of science and education and controversy. Environmentalism has always been politic in Davis, where the Sierra Club boasts its highest per capita membership. The agricultural tradition is still dominant here - by nature, a conserving force. And the county is small enough for personal relationships between the major players. A minority of local officials usually stand by commitments to control urban development. And its congressman, Rep. Vic Fazio, D-West Sacramento, has delivered federal money for technical studies.

But those factors have long been present. What's changed, observers say, is the emergence of a few personalities who have inspired activists and soothed anxieties, who have blended scientific understanding and diplomacy.

For example, works for Jones and Stokes Associates, a Sacramento firm that has been preparing environmental studies required for major developments and government projects.

He mustered those skills at Putah Creek, and learned still more. "It's important to have a sustained effort, not just dabble," he said. Set sights on realistic accomplishments. Respect diverse interests and be patient with adversaries. Don't just fight.

"If you can't have fun and enjoy yourself, your energy is going to dry up and blow away," he said. "It's hard to sustain when you are just being angry."

The Beeds and his wife, Susan Sanders, both hold moderate in-

biology from Davis. Beedy also works at Jones and Stokes. Sanders, who was deep in Putah Creek, is mothering their two children full-time. Beedy remembers the night in their Woodland home when Supervisor Marchand arrived as an adversary and left as an ally. He remembers years before telling his then-girlfriend - convincingly - that it wasn't enough to understand biology.

"As biologists," Sanders said, "you can't help but care about what you study. Just so much has been lost you feel compelled to save what is left."

Robin Kulakow also was baptized in Putah Creek. A former Forest Service soils scientist, Kulakow discovered that restoring the creek was a social fight as much as a scientific one. She now is executive director of the Yolo Basin Foundation, whose vision is to make wildlife welcome in the bypass, beginning with where Putah Creek flows into the basin.

"What got me excited was when I realized tundra swans came from the arctic to spend the winter in Yolo County," Kulakow said. "It makes this an important place that should be taken care of."

Bob Schneider, now conservation chair of the local Sierra Club chapter, co-founded the California Wilderness Coalition in his younger years, then became a builder. Schneider is working with Yolo farmers to map the best soils and encourage their preservation. "It became obvious to me that we developers, no matter how much we cared, would pave over Yolo County," he said.

It is a partnership born of necessity, said grower Richard Rominger, whose family has stewarded Yolo land for 120 years. The 1980s real estate boom pushed eastward up Interstate 80 from the Bay Area and spilled westward over the Sacramento River.

"There was an increasing awareness of the limits of our resources, more concern about what it will look like in the future," said Rominger, director of the state Department of Food and Agriculture during the 1970s. "There have been people at work to find where we have common ground," he said, "rather than emphasize the differences."

## Yolo finds that cooperation aids environment

By Jim Mayer  
Bee Staff Writer

The people in Davis have a long history of caring about the environment, someplace else. They want to save Mono Lake and Brazilian rain forests.

And so it struck Steve Chainey as wrong that Putah Creek, which flows smack-dab through the University of California, was being ignored.

"People need to respect and inter-

act with the environment they are most in contact with," said Chainey, a Davis alumnus, a landscape architect and chairman of the Putah Creek Council.

Chainey and others set out in the mid-1980s to increase appreciation for the creek and plant a few trees. Then drought set in. Concern became a crisis. And to save the creek from slow death, the council fought to get water released from Monticelli Dam at Lake Berryessa.

"We were propelled into the political arena big time," Chainey said. Lawsuits, Congressmen. Emergency legislation. After all, this was water. Although fish have died and trees have wilted, the creek abides.

The skirmish at Putah Creek was the Lexington and Concord for a conservation revolution in Yolo County. It is one that favors compromise over confrontation, education over rhetoric, realism over idealism.

"Instead of putting out fires, we are

trying to create something new," said Susan Sanders, co-chairwoman of the Putah Creek Council.

The Sierra Club is working with the county farm bureau to preserve agriculture on the best soils. Conservationists have growers, wildlife biologists and flood control engineers all working to restore habitat in the Yolo Bypass.

The last five years has given rise to

Please see YOLO, page B4

SECTION

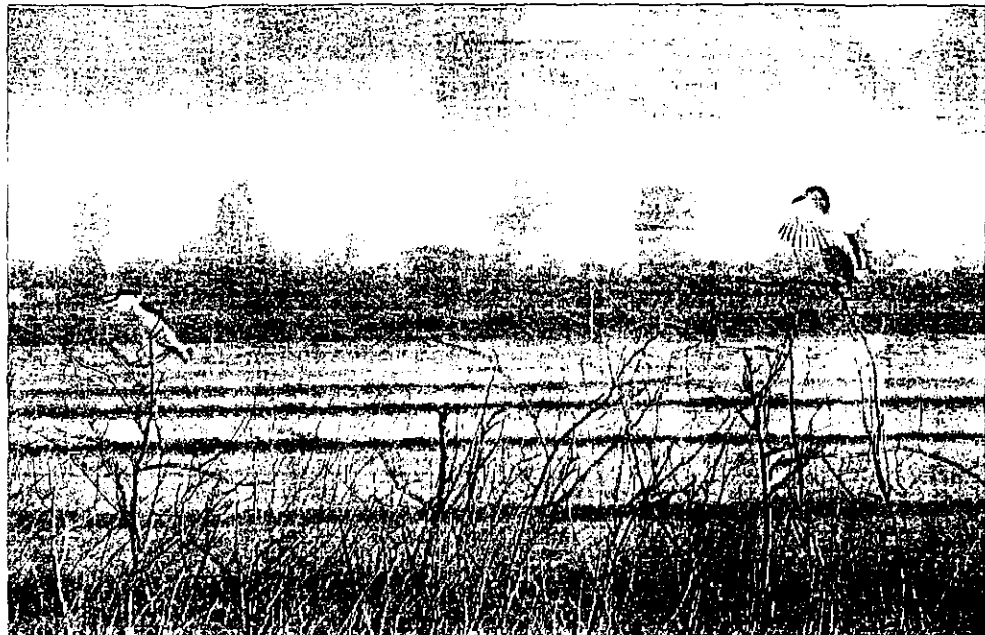
The Sacramento Bee

• • • Tuesday, February 9, 1993

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With the city of Sacramento in the background, black-crowned night herons roost in willow trees on the Conaway Ranch in the Yolo basin.

B4 - The Sacramento Bee Final • Tuesday, February 9, 1993 •

### Conserving close to home

Yolo County environmentalists say fighting for Putah Creek taught them the value of realistic compromise.

